

CASTLE ROCK STATE PARK
GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT
and Supplement EIR
For

Walk-in Campsites at Partridge Farm

PRELIMINARY

June 20, 2000



CASTLE ROCK STATE PARK
GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT
and Supplement EIR
For

Walk-in Campsites at Partridge Farm

PRELIMINARY

June 20, 2000



GRAY DAVIS
Governor

RUSTY AREIAS
Director

MARY NICHOLS
Secretary for Resources

Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896 Sacramento, California 94296-0001

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION
1	BACKGROUND
2	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
5	ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS
5	SUMMARY / INTRODUCTION
5	DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT
6	SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION
6	Cultural Resources
7	Traffic
9	Hydrology and Soils
10	Geology
11	Wildlife
12	Esthetics
13	ALTERNATIVES
13	Traditional Campground Development
14	No Project Alternative (General Plan Approved Development)
14	IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES
15	GROWTH INDUCING IMPACT
15	NON-SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS
15	Noise
15	Wildfire
16	Black Oak Woodland
16	Water and Sewage
17	REFERENCES / PERSONS CONSULTED

LIST OF MAPS AND FIGURES

iii	Map 1	VICINITY MAP – Santa Cruz Mountains
4	Map 2	PROPOSED WALK-IN CAMPSITES

APPENDICES

19	Appendix A	SP&R Commission Resolution (General Plan), 3/08/00
20	Appendix B	SP&R Commission Resolution (Natural Preserve), 3/08/00

Vicinity map

**Castle Rock State Park
General Plan Amendment
PROPOSED WALK-IN CAMPSITES**

INTRODUCTION

On March 8, 2000, the State Park and Recreation Commission approved the preliminary general plan for Castle Rock State Park and classified a large portion of the park as a natural preserve. In approving this plan, the commissioners also expressed their support for walk-in campsites to improve access opportunities for visitors in the Partridge Farm area. The purpose of this amendment is to include a development proposal of approximately 20 walk-in campsites in the Castle Rock State Park General Plan. The original camping component of the plan was withdrawn from Commission consideration at the general plan hearing due to concerns raised with regard to the analysis of the impacts of the camping proposal in the draft plan that had been circulated for public comment (*see Appendix A for Commission Resolution*).

BACKGROUND

Castle Rock State Park offers visitors an opportunity to visit a ridge-top environment, which is a portion of the Foothills and Low Coastal Mountains Landscape Province. It provides trailhead opportunities for use of trails at Castle Rock and in the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Preserves and Bay Area Ridge Trail, and hikes from the ridge to the ocean via the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail (approximately 30 mile, three-day trail hike). Most of the Santa Cruz Mountain's region is very accessible to the local communities of the lower peninsula for a bicycle day-trip or visit by automobile any time of the day. Castle Rock State Park also provides primitive trail camps for park visitors and backpackers along this regional trail system.

Camping opportunities in the Santa Cruz Mountains and vicinity of Castle Rock State Park exist at Portola Redwoods State Park (12 miles or 35 minutes to the northwest), Big Basin Redwoods State Park (15 miles or 40 minutes to the southwest), and Sanborn-Skyline County Park (6 miles or 25 minutes to the east). These state and county parks provide an overnight experience for conventional car campers in the redwood forest and canyons, and focus the users on recreational activities within those park units. Camping facilities at these other parks include walk-in and family tent campsites, group facilities, tent cabins, as well as recreation vehicle hook-ups provided at the county park. Overnight visitors from major metropolitan areas outside the Santa Cruz Mountains region must make reservations for campsites due to the popular demand for these facilities. Campsites in county parks are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The park was evaluated during the general plan process for its potential to create opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation, consistent with its resource values and classification. It was recognized at that time, some park visitors enjoyed a primitive type of recreational experience and would like extended hours of use; still, others wanted campsites that were more accessible from the main parking lot. However, potential sites for locating new campground facilities is limited. Partridge Farm is considered the only site within current state park ownership that is favorable for this type of facility. It is also recognized that sensitive natural and cultural resources exist in adjacent areas.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The management intent is to establish approximately 20 walk-in campsites in the Partridge Farm Area. These campsites will be designed for a visitor experience similar to trail camps, but with greater accessibility to parking and restroom facilities. Visitors will be required to walk a reasonable distance from a common parking area to walk-in campsites situated in a natural setting. Unlike automobile campgrounds, campers will not have vehicle parking next to each campsite. Campsites and support facilities will be designed to create an accessible environment for visitors and minimize visitor impacts on natural and cultural resources.

As directed by the general plan, an overall site plan will be prepared for Partridge Farm, with the guidance of resource inventories, studies, and review. This site plan will include such components as: vehicle access, visitor contact, park office, parking and circulation, day use and overnight use areas, interpretive and operations facilities, cultural protection, buffer zones, and native plant restoration. The proposed campsites would be developed in a third phase of park development, only after the first two phases, which includes day use parking and visitor contact facilities. Resource assessment and monitoring will occur in the vicinity of Partridge Farm prior to development, which is subject to further environmental review.

GOAL: Expand access and overnight opportunities for visitors.

Guidelines:

- Approximately 20 walk-in campsites may be developed for a tent camping experience in the Partridge Farm Area. Campsites will be set into a natural setting and accessible by trail to and from developed parking and restroom facilities located out of view from the campground.
- Overnight visitor parking (approximately 30 spaces) will be screened with native plants and centralized or clustered away from the walk-in campsites.
- Restroom facilities will be small in scale and blended into the existing terrain and landscaped with native vegetation. Restroom locations shall be based on the overall

site plan prepared for the Partridge Farm Area, including provisions for day use and overnight use facilities.

- The design and layout of campground facilities shall consider compatibility with other uses and programs (i.e., day use, special activities, operations, natural and cultural resource management, and interpretive programs) identified in the general plan for the Partridge Farm Area.
- Pathways connecting campsites to park trails shall guide users through the least sensitive resource areas.
- Campsite provisions should be made for people with disabilities.
- Prior to any facility development, a resource assessment and monitoring program will be implemented in order to evaluate impacts and guide future management decisions regarding public access and visitor use in the Partridge Farm Area and its surroundings. Development projects shall include provisions for the restoration and protection of native vegetation and protection of cultural features.
- A campfire center may be considered in the overall site plan for the Partridge Farm Area.

PROPOSED WALK-IN CAMPSITES - MAP NO. 2

The map shown on the following page describes the area of potential development for walk-in campsites at Partridge Farm. This area also includes the site for day-use parking facilities proposed in the approved general plan for this unit. This area shown is considered to be conceptual for general plan purposes only, and does not reflect the actual boundaries of proposed facilities development. A future area development plan and detailed site investigations will determine actual facilities location and design.

MAP

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

This document is a supplement to the EIR prepared for the Castle Rock State Park General Plan that covers the proposal for an addition of approximately twenty walk-in sites at Partridge Farm.

This supplement examines the potential environmental impacts of camping in greater detail than the EIR for the General Plan recognizing the concerns the public expressed for campground development during the CEQA review of the preliminary general plan. However, this supplement is a first tier review whereby subsequent area development plans for the Partridge Farm area will be subject to further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

This supplement considers the impact of the addition of camping and the cumulative impact of camping along with the development previously approved in the General Plan.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

The Partridge Farm area is described in the General Plan, Natural Resources Inventory of Castle Rock State Park and the Upper San Lorenzo River Basin Boisseranc Inventory and An Inventory of the Cultural Features of the Boisseranc Unit, Castle Rock State Park, Santa Cruz County. These documents, incorporated by reference, are available for public review at the Santa Cruz District Office at 600 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz and the Northern Service Center at 1725 23rd Street, Room 200, Sacramento, California.

In summary, the Partridge Farm area has been substantially modified by agricultural activities and other uses over the last 100 years. It is recovering to a more natural-appearing landscape as native vegetation reestablishes itself. It is surrounded by the Black Oak woodland and the unique and sensitive Lion Caves and Castle Rock Ridge areas.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Area of Potential Effect

The area of potential impact includes the Partridge Farm area, and adjacent Lion Caves and Castle Rock Ridge Areas.

Threshold

Loss, destruction, or human-induced deterioration of a known cultural resource, recognized by the Department to have integrity and significance, will be considered a significant impact.

Impact of Camping

There is a significant cluster of six prehistoric sites in the Partridge Farm area. These sites represent a seasonal camp of undetermined age. Some possible rock art was recently identified in the large rock formations within the vicinity of Partridge Farm; other rock art sites may exist within the park. In general, prehistoric resources are scarce in the park and, therefore, all are potentially significant.

The Partridge House/Bungalow is the remaining significant historic resource in the Partridge Farm area. The existing apple and pear orchards are potentially historically significant.

The General Plan calls for the protection of all historic and prehistoric sites and features from adverse effects resulting from park use, development, and management activities. The Partridge House will be maintained with consideration of appropriate adaptive uses. No camping facilities would directly impact these sites. The continuation of the house as an employee residence or other use (i.e. unit administrative) would discourage public vandalism of the sites.

The camping facility would not be located near the Partridge House or existing orchards. There would be no significant impact.

There is a potential significant impact to unrecorded or unknown resources in the Castle Rock Ridge Area.

Impact – Cumulative

The cumulative impact of camping and day use on cultural resources will be the same as the impact for camping.

Mitigation

1. Site-specific cultural resource surveys will be conducted in areas proposed for development and where other surface disturbing activities occur in the Lion Caves and the adjacent Castle Rock Ridge Areas. No public use facilities will be constructed on or near known prehistoric or historic sites, in accordance with the Department's resource management directives and professional standards for the treatment of historic properties.
2. A buffer zone will be designated around the facility development area at Partridge Farm to protect the cultural resources and other sensitive habitats and resources.
- 3 Any modification, maintenance, or improvements to the Partridge House will be done in conformance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
4. All development and resource management plans will be subject to meeting PRC 5024.5 review requirements. These cultural effect review requirements will be met at the time the plans are prepared.

TRAFFIC

Area of Potential Effect

The area of potential effect includes the two state highways (35 and 9) along the borders of Castle Rock State Park, the intersection of the two highways (Saratoga Gap), and the proposed entrance to the Partridge Farm area.

Threshold

A reduction in the level of service below "Level C" or development of an access with inadequate sight distance will be considered a significant impact.

Impact – Camping

Caltrans rates level of service on roadways with a scale from "A" to "F". The rating is not wholly dependent on the number of vehicles but also on the nature of the flow, speeds, and delays. Level of service "A" represents unrestricted operation; Level F represents overcapacity flows with heavy congestion and

considerable reductions in speed. Level “C” is still stable flow; although it approaches the range where instability may occur because of small changes in flow. Caltrans design standard level of service for freeways and highways is Level “C”. Maximum volume (passenger cars per hour in one direction) for rural two-lane highway for “B” level of service is 900 under ideal conditions (Fundamentals of Traffic Engineering, 8th edition, Institute of Transportation and Traffic Engineering, University of California, Berkeley, 1973).

The camping proposal will add about 60 trips per day maximum (30 parking spaces X 2 trips/space/day). The increase in traffic volume would be less of an impact than the potential safety hazard of vehicles accessing and egressing at the present Partridge Farm entrance. Regular visitor use of the Partridge farm area would require an improved developed access and entrance road for public safety reasons. Visitors tend to avoid peak (commute) traffic periods and, therefore, should not contribute to peak traffic volumes.

The current peak hour traffic on Highway 35 between Partridge Farm and Saratoga Gap is 440 trips per hour. The practical capacity of this roadway is about 900 vehicles per hour. If the daily traffic volume from camping (60 vehicle trips) were generated in one hour, in addition to the peak hour traffic of 440 trips/hour, it would not exceed the practical capacity of this roadway.

Impact – Cumulative

The cumulative increase of the day use and camping proposals at Partridge Farm could add 460 trips per day maximum (100 spaces X 2 trips/day/space X 2 (turnovers) + trips generated by camping). The cumulative impact on traffic volume of all development at Partridge farm approaches the practical capacity (if all trips generated by Partridge Farm visitor development occur during the peak hour, an unlikely occurrence). Visitor traffic or trips generally occur during off-peak hours and spaced throughout the day. A more probable scenario would be one trip generated for every parking space (approximately 100 day use and 30 camping) at the peak hour. These 130 trips, in addition to the peak hour traffic, are still below the practical capacity. There is still the potential traffic hazard at the intersection of the highway and the Partridge Farm entrance road. The day use parking at Partridge Farm will replace the parking removed at the current main parking area and the highway; therefore, the impact at the Saratoga Gap intersection will be negligible. The only increase in trips generated is from the proposed camping.

Mitigation

Mitigation for the potential safety hazard will not be prescribed now. The Department will consult with the California Department of Transportation to design a safe access into Partridge Farm area at the time site-specific development plans are prepared. Road and access improvements will conform

to Caltrans standards and specifications when implemented. Possible mitigation is the relocation of the entrance road, construction of deceleration lanes, and construction of turn lanes.

HYDROLOGY AND SOILS

Area of Potential Effect

The area of potential effect includes the areas of Partridge Farm, Castle Rock Ridge, and Lion Caves.

Threshold

A reduction in water quality and/or increased soil erosion will be considered a significant impact.

Impact – Camping

Even though project developments will occur within a limited portion of the park (Partridge Farm Resource Management Zone), development, maintenance and use of facilities such as roads, trails, parking lots, campsites, picnic areas, utilities, septic systems, and buildings, have the potential for significant short and long-term impacts to the environment. These impacts could include soil disturbance, dust, increased erosion, altered drainage patterns, and lowered water quality.

Quantification and determination of the impacts is speculative without more defined plans.

Impact – Cumulative

The cumulative impacts are considered the same as those described for camping above.

Mitigation

Design, construction and maintenance of facilities will follow the best management practices for the elimination or reduction of adverse effects to soil stability, water quality, and drainage patterns. Activities or development that could adversely affect the park's aquatic systems will be mitigated to a level of non-significance, where feasible.

GEOLOGY

Area of Potential Effect

The area of potential effect includes the areas of Partridge Farm, Castle Rock Ridge, and Lion Caves.

Threshold

Damage to unique or significant geological features will be considered a significant impact.

Impact – Camping

There is a potential impact to tafoni as a result of climbing activities, vandalism, and unintentional damage from intensive use. Improved access at Partridge Farm may encourage greater public use of the surrounding areas possessing tafoni features. Consultations with geologists confirmed that the tafoni are sensitive and endangered. The durability of the tafoni features has not been studied and is most likely variable, with some rock features more durable than others.

Impact – Cumulative

The cumulative impacts are considered the same as those above. On the basis of the number of visitors involved, the day use development (460 visitors) has a responsibility for the greater portion of the impact than camping (70 visitors). It should be recognized that the day use visitation at Partridge Farm is a result of the relocation of existing day use parking and may not create any substantial difference in effect.

Mitigation

No climbing will be permitted in the area classified as a natural preserve. The Department will prepare a climbing management plan that will include measures to prevent damage to tafoni from climbing activities outside the San Lorenzo Headwaters Natural Preserve. Proposals to protect tafoni in the plan may include designation of climbing areas, equipment restrictions, and closures. Interpretation and education of visitors can reduce the unintentional degradation and vandalism of these features.

WILDLIFE

Area of Potential Effect

The area of potential effect includes the entire state park, depending on the sensitivity and area requirements of the species. The area of greatest effect includes the Partridge Farm resource management zone and adjacent areas.

Threshold

Direct take or removal of individuals of a sensitive species, reduction in area, or alternation or disturbance of required habitat will be considered a significant impact.

Impact – Camping

The additional availability of garbage and the direct feeding of wildlife by campers, in conjunction with that of day use visitors, may attract disproportionately large populations of nest predators, including raccoons, striped skunks, opossums, and corvids (jays, ravens and crows), in and adjacent to the project area. Increased large predator populations may adversely impact Neotropical migrant songbirds, non-migrant native birds, amphibians and reptiles using hardwood, montane-hardwood and grassland habitats occurring in the Partridge Farm and adjacent Resource Management Zones. Evidence of the impact is inconclusive; a determination of significance would be speculative.

The siting of camping facilities may degrade sensitive plant or animal populations or their habitat. Brewer's calandrina, a sensitive plant species, occurs in the park; however, inventory searches failed to find any in the campground area. Mountain lions have been documented to occur in the park; however, population statistics, regional wildlife movement, and tolerances of humans have not been established. Mountain lions have been documented in the Partridge Farm vicinity by Harvey and Stanley (1979), yet little is known of the species' use intensity there. No sign of mountain lions was observed in the Partridge Farm Resource Management Zone during 1995/96 inventories; during this time one mountain lion sighting was reported elsewhere in the park.

The project could result in disturbance to amphibian and reptile microhabitat from the illegal gathering of large woody litter for firewood; however, the Department enforces regulations against the illegal collection of firewood.

Impact – Cumulative

The cumulative impacts are considered the same as those described for camping above.

Mitigation

Site-specific searches for sensitive species of plants and animals will be conducted in areas proposed for development or for other activities. The Department will assess movement patterns by large, wide-ranging sensitive animal species using the Partridge Farm area and vicinity. The proposed project will be modified if necessary to avoid significant adverse impacts to any detected sensitive populations or areas that have established movement corridors of sensitive animal species.

ESTHETICS

Area of Potential Effect

The area of potential effect includes the areas of Partridge Farm, Castle Rock Ridge, and Lion Caves. Due to topography and vegetation, the viewshed from Partridge Farm is limited.

Threshold

New development in a natural-appearing landscape visible to neighbors or adjacent traffic would be considered significant.

Impacts – Camping

The area of potential development is not readily visible from the highway or by neighboring landowners. The proposed walk-in campsites will be generally screened by existing vegetation and topography, and thus will not result in significant visual impacts. Campsites will be designed and situated within the Partridge Farm area, with minimal disturbance to the existing landscape. A parking area with reflective parked automobiles and restroom building could be very obvious human imposed intrusions into the landscape. The activity and equipment associated with the walk-in campsites could also be an intrusion to the visual landscape for park users seeking a wilderness experience.

Human activities occurring outside the Partridge Farm area, in the vicinity of Goat Rock and Lion Caves, could impact the visual quality of the natural landscape through indiscriminate use (volunteer trails and deliberate acts of resource damage).

Impacts - Cumulative

The cumulative impacts are considered the same as those described for camping above.

Mitigation

Visual impacts can be mitigated by careful siting, design, and selection of materials. The restroom building design will be low profile and use muted, non-reflective exterior colors that blend, rather than contrast, with the surrounding environment. Designated trails throughout the Castle Rock Ridge and into the Lion Caves area will be designed and situated to minimize the visual impact to the existing landscape, which includes restoration of previously impacted sites.

Parking will be developed and screened by landscaping to help break up surfaces of potential glare and views from the walk-in campsites, highway, and adjacent private properties.

Landscaping with native plant species will be provided at the campground perimeter and throughout the walk-in campsites to screen views from parking areas and nearby trails, if needed. Native plant species compatible with existing vegetation would be required.

Low-profile lighting at the restroom building will be at a minimum level necessary for security and safety. Light fixtures that minimize glare will be required and directed downward to minimize light pollution of the dark skies.

ALTERNATIVES

There are two alternatives to be considered: (1) Traditional campground development alternative (2) the “no project” alternative (development approved by the Park and Recreation Commission).

TRADITIONAL CAMPGROUND DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVE

Traditional campground facilities would be developed, including campground roads and individual campsite parking spurs. Approximately twenty campsites would be designed for overnight use at Partridge Farm in addition to the day use and operations facilities already approved in the general plan. This alternative would result in construction of additional roads for campground vehicle traffic, with a reduction in consolidated parking for overnight use. Approximately 10 parking spaces will be developed for overnight visitor use of existing trail camps.

The potential significant environmental impacts resulting from this alternative would be the same as the approved general plan, with the potential increase in vehicle traffic movements related to the use of traditional camping vehicles. Additional surfaced campground roads will result in the loss of vegetative cover

and wildlife habitat, increase surface run-off and potential soil erosion, and impact the esthetics of the natural-appearing landscape.

The traffic impacts and visual degradation impacts could be mitigated to non-significance through proper siting of facilities and landscaping. Individual parking spurs would be designed to blend into the natural surroundings to minimize the view of vehicle parking from the highway and adjacent private properties. Identified cultural resources in the Partridge Farm area will be avoided by locating facilities away from the sensitive areas. Impacts to sensitive plants and animals will be avoided by performing surveys for such species and locating facilities away from areas of identified occurrence.

NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE – (GENERAL PLAN APPROVED DEVELOPMENT)

The “no project” alternative would be the development approved by the general plan. No camping facilities would be constructed. The approved development is reviewed in the General Plan EIR. In summary, the development proposed is 50 day use parking sites relocated from the highway (phase 1) ultimately 100 parking sites (50 sites relocated from the main parking lot), unit administrative office and initial public contact point, and adaptive use of the Partridge House. The potential significant environmental impacts resulting from this alternative would be a reduction in the level of service (congestion and safety hazard) at the existing entrance at Partridge Farm, visual degradation of the natural scenic qualities at Partridge Farm, take of Brewer’s calandrinia, and vandalism or unintentional destruction of cultural resources. The traffic impacts and visual degradation impacts could be mitigated to non-significance through proper siting of facilities and landscaping. The take or loss Brewer’s calandrinia is not possible to assess because unknown variables (prescribed burning, reduction of trails, etc.) affect the net result. Identified cultural resources in the Partridge Farm area will be avoided by locating day use facilities away from the sensitive areas. Some cultural resources have been discovered in the Castle Rock Ridge area; there is a potential impact to these and other unknown resources until they are properly identified and measures are designed to protect them where feasible. Impacts to sensitive plants and animals will be avoided by performing surveys for such species and locating facilities away from areas of identified occurrence.

IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

Any facility development is a long-term commitment of resources; however, impacts can generally be reversed through the removal of facilities, if necessary. Partridge Farm has already been extensively modified by agricultural activities and is recovering naturally. The Department will be monitoring sensitive resources in Castle Rock on an ongoing basis to direct management and development. If there are

indications that impacts from visitor use may become excessive, the Department can reduce or remove facilities or take other appropriate actions.

GROWTH INDUCING IMPACT

Growth in the surrounding metropolitan/urban areas is dependent on housing and employment availability. The addition of 20 campsites at Partridge Farm will not remove any constraint to growth, will not require new staff needing new housing, nor will it induce new growth to this area. Population growth in nearby urban areas will generate demand for recreational opportunities and facilities with or without the facility development at Castle Rock State Park.

NON-SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

NOISE

A certain amount of noise will be generated from use and activities associated with the 20 walk-in campsites proposed for the Partridge Farm area. The projected daytime noise levels from campground use would be compatible with surrounding day use activities, highway traffic, and the adjacent gun club, and therefore, are not considered to be a significant noise impact.

Overnight use could affect associated wildlife species located in the vicinity of Partridge Farm, but noise levels are not projected to be significant. The type of camping experience we are offering in walk-in campsites is similar to trail camps, which limits the use of generators, music players, and frequent use of automobiles.

Discussion

The walk-in campsites will provide an outdoor experience for visitors who prefer separation from the automobiles, but for various reasons prefer not to or can not walk greater distances to established primitive sites.

Park rules and regulations for use of overnight facilities will be strictly enforced.

Landscaping for screening and buffers will also reduce noise level disturbance in surrounding areas.

WILDFIRE

Use of camping facilities within wildland areas has the potential to place the public at risk due to wildfires caused by inadvertent ignition from within, as well as from outside the park. Furthermore, the designation of a large portion of the

park as Natural Preserve, with its limitations on off-trail travel and mechanized equipment could hamper suppression activities.

Discussion

No campfires or nighttime activity will be allowed outside the designated camping areas, including the Partridge Farm Resource Management Zone. Following State Park standards, these designated areas will be designed to reduce the chance of accidental escape of fire to surrounding vegetation. The existing Wildfire Management Plan will be reviewed and modified, as appropriate, to ensure protection of human lives and property, and will emphasize control of fires along predetermined suppression lines, which divide the park into control compartments. The Wildfire Management Plan will also include evacuation procedures.

BLACK OAK WOODLAND

A Black Oak Woodland, of limited distribution in the Santa Cruz Mountains, occurs directly adjacent to the Partridge Farm area. Adverse impacts from increased visitor use of this area may include soil disturbance by volunteer trails. These disturbed soils may allow for invasive exotic plant establishment.

Discussion

No camping facilities will be located in or near existing Black Oak Woodlands. The Castle Rock General Plan stipulates the development and implementation of an environmental monitoring program for the Partridge Farm and adjacent Resource Management Zones to help manage visitor use and protect resources. This program is intended to: 1) develop a quantitative methodology to establish baseline conditions, 2) set target ranges for resource conditions, 3) monitor environmental indicators, and 4) recommend remediation when impacts exceed target ranges. The General Plan also provides guidelines for: a) the development of a unitwide Vegetation Management Plan to perpetuate natural communities and processes, and control invasive exotic plant species, b) the development of a Watershed Management Plan to control erosion and sedimentation, and c) the development of a Unitwide Trails Plan in order to guide trail location and construction, and provide for appropriate maintenance. The intent of these resource protection mechanisms is to maintain resource impacts to levels less than significant.

WATER AND SEWAGE

Water supply required for the proposed camping would be about 1050 gallons per day (3.5 people/campsite X 20 campsites X 15 gallons/person/day). Day use

water requirements would be about 2300 gallons per day (100 parking spaces X 2.3 people/car X 2 cars/parking space (turnover) X 5 gallons/person/day). Cumulative water requirements for camping and day use would be 3350 gallons per day, or about 2.3 gallons per minute.

Discussion

Existing water supply can meet the requirements for both the proposed day use and camping. The existing well and pump at Partridge Farm has been tested to provide 20 gallons per minute for days with no significant draw down on the well water level. There is a 10,000 gallon water storage tank to meet short-term peak requirements in excess of well delivery.

Percolation tests will be conducted to determine the actual location and area requirements for a leach field. Initial restroom facilities may use a vault or tank to hold waste that would be periodically pumped out and treated elsewhere. There is sufficient acreage and percolation capacity to meet leach field requirements.

REFERENCES / PERSONS CONSULTED

Natural Resources Inventory of Castle Rock State Park and the Upper San Lorenzo River Basin, Harvey and Stanley Associates, 1979.

An Inventory of the Cultural Features of the Boisseranc Unit, Castle Rock State Park, Santa Cruz County, William Roop, Archeological Resource Service for Harvey and Stanley Associates, September 1982.

Sydney Brown, Senior Geologist, California Department of Parks and Recreation

Gary Waldron, Senior Resource Ecologist, California Department of Parks and Recreation

APPENDIX A

Resolution 5-00
adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in San Jose on
March 8, 2000

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan for Castle Rock State Park; and

WHEREAS, this document reflects long-range development plans to provide for optimum use and enjoyment of the unit as well as the protection of its quality, resources and diversity; and

WHEREAS, it is the Commission's view that added walk-in camping is desirable at Castle Rock State Park, therefore the Commission directs the staff to re-evaluate the issue of camping in this Plan and, if appropriate, to prepare an amendment to the Plan addressing this subject at a Commission meeting no later than six months from today;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's Castle Rock State Park Preliminary General Plan, dated February 1999, subject to such environmental changes as the Director of Parks and Recreation shall determine advisable and necessary to implement the provisions of said plan.

APPENDIX B

Resolution 6-00
adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in San Jose on
March 8, 2000

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has proposed an 1800-acre Natural Preserve be established in the core ecological area of Castle Rock State Park to provide for the recognition and protection of significant natural resources at the headwaters of the San Lorenzo River; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Natural Preserve contains highly significant natural, geologic and esthetic resources, including rare tafoni sandstone formations and a diversity of plant communities and wildlife habitats; and

WHEREAS, encompassed within the proposed boundaries of the Natural Preserve are plant communities of local or statewide significance, including the black oak woodland, redwood forest, white alder forest and knobcone pine forest, which provides habitat for listed wildlife species, including potential marbled murrelet and peregrine falcon nesting, and spawning steelhead trout; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Section 5019.50 of the Public Resources Code, and after proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies approximately 1800 acres in Castle Rock State Park as a Natural Preserve and names the unit San Lorenzo Headwaters Natural Preserve.

GENERAL PLAN INQUIRIES

The California Department of Parks and Recreation Northern Service Center prepared the Castle Rock SP General Plan Amendment. For general information regarding this document or the approved general plan for Castle Rock State Park, please contact the Northern Service Center or Santa Cruz District Office:

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Northern Service Center
1725 23rd Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, California 95816
Phone: (916) 324-0077
Fax: (916) 324-0888

Santa Cruz District Office
Mountain Sector Headquarters
600 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060
Phone: (831) 429-2850
Fax: (831) 429-2876